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Solenberger, Alice W. *One Thousand Homeless Men.* Pp. xxiv, 374. Price, \$1.25. New York: Charities Publication Committee, 1911.

In 1900 the writer, then Miss Alice Willard, was in charge of a district office of the Chicago Bureau of Charities. Within the boundaries of the district and immediately adjoining was the great lodging house section of the city. In this way Miss Willard came to have constant contact with homeless boys and men. With passing months came the realization that the customary methods of handling the cases were pitifully inadequate and real knowledge of causes almost non-existent. Thus began the study which was maintained after her marriage and in spite of family cares for ten years. Her untimely death in December, 1910, found the volume practically completed save for a preface and a chapter summarizing conclusions.

The absence of a good summary of the author's conclusions is the most marked defect of the book, because of the confusion left in the reader's mind. That is to say, the volume is effective in making us realize the social neglect. It teems with good suggestions which are not correlated. The tone is intensely sympathetic, we realize that human beings are under discussion and we often catch their viewpoint. No single remedy is suggested, and I chance to know that the author did not think there was any one way out. The study stands almost alone and possesses, therefore, peculiar value.

Certain general facts stand out in bold relief. It must always happen that some boys will become dissatisfied at home. It is, however, too easy for such boys to run away. The railroads should be closed to wanderers irrespective of age. Once on the road tramps will initiate boys into all sorts of evil practices. Arrived at the city, it is discovered that it is not easy to earn a decent living. Individual citizens and agencies are too prone to act on impulse without proper knowledge. Our relief program is haphazard, not systematic. Some get back home, some become tramps, some mere beggars.

Sickness, accident, the increasing difficulty of securing employment, with oncoming of old age, play their part. There are varying degrees of mental strength as well as of physical vigor. Lodging house life devitalizes men and exposes them to disease. Those of decent past shrink from the degrading contact of the average almshouse. Result: a great mass of social wreckage. Some of this can be saved—much might have been prevented.

The reader will find in these pages many evidences that better training for life work will prevent trouble later. It is evident that we are penny wise and pound foolish in much of our relief work. Labor colonies are necessary.

The book is a valuable contribution. It will repay careful reading and give rise to much meditation.

CARL KELSEY.

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